Km. 36.63 to 231.00, the work of four-laning is in progress. The target dates of completion are as under:-

(i) Gurgaon to Kotputli Section - March, 2000.

(ii) Kotputli to Achrol Section - June, 1997.

Further, four-laning works from Km. 231.00 to 248.00 (in Rajasthan) have been completed. For the four laning of the section from Jaipur to Ajmer, feasibility studies are being initiated.

Places of Pre-Historic Period in Bihar

*133. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India is aware that there are several places of pre-historic period in Chhota Nagpur of Bihar;

(b) if so, the number of places selected for further study till now;

(c) whether the experts are of the opinion that the aforesaid exploration may unearth and bring to light more of pre-historic settlements which came into being much earlier than Harappa civilization; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Further studies have been taken up in the district of Hazaribagh, Ranchi, Singhbhum, Palamu and Dhanbad by the Directorate of Archaeology, Government of Bihar.

(c) The Archaeological investigation conducted so far at these sites indicates the existence of pre-historic remains.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Lands of Kandla Port Trust

*134. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether unsettlement of the claim of ownership of lands of Gandhidham area of Kachha district under the management of Kandla Port Trust has left substantial area of Gandhidham unutilised and undeveloped;

(b) if so, the details of land awaiting utilisation and development; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G.VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c) Kandla Part Trust owns 6920 acres of land at Gandhidham Township out of which 5889 acres is under utilisation. Only 230 acres of developed area and 801 acres of undeveloped area meant for Residential Township remains unutilised.

The Kandla Port Trust had submitted lay out plans for 2 units (296 acres) to the Gandhidham Development Authority (GDA) during September, 1992, for their approval but these are still awaiting clearance.

[Translation]

Rates of C.G.H.S. Contribution

*135. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been enormous increase in the rates of Contribution made by the Central Government Health Scheme beneficiaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to bring the Central Government Health Scheme under the jurisdiction of Consumer Forum in view of enormous increase in the rates of Contribution and falling standard of the scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) The rates of CGHS contribution which ranged from Rs. 1/- to Rs. 12/- were increased in 1994 and now range from Rs. 5/- to Rs. 50- depending on the basic pay etc. being drawn by the beneficiary.

(c) to (e) The CGHS Scheme is intended for Central Government employees and not the general public. The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission New Delhi has already taken a view that "a Govt. servant under the Central Govt. Health Scheme is not a consumer within the meaning of Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

The improvement in the functioning fo CGHS is an ongoing process. In order to streamline its working, a number of measures have been taken keeping in mind the preferences of the beneficiaries and the views of the Area Welfare Officers etc. These interalia include recognition of a wider range of private hospitals, computerisation of reimbursement claims, package deals for hospital treatment etc.

Ground Water Level

*136. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether constant fall in the ground water level is likely to cast its impact on agricultural production as well as on the intensive crop cycle;

(b) whether there is a possibility of shortage of potable water in future in the areas, where ground water is the only source of irrigation;

(c) the utility of water shed management and water harvesting techniques in increasing the water level ; and